

Public Notice – Environmental Project

PURPOSE OF NOTICE:

The Department of Environmental Quality seeks public comment on the state's response to the environmental aspects of a proposed project in the Cities of Newport News, Norfolk and Portsmouth, Virginia.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

March 20, 2009 to April 9, 2009

TYPE OF RESPONSE:

Federal Consistency Determination

DEQ is reviewing a federal activity to determine if it is consistent with the U.S. Coastal Zone Management Act. The act seeks to protect the quality of air, water or other natural resources in Virginia's coastal area.

NAME OF AGENCY PROPOSING THE PROJECT:

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) proposes to operate two mobile gamma imaging inspection systems to conduct non-intrusive inspections of cargo containers entering the United States at the Port of Virginia's Newport News, Norfolk and Portsmouth Marine Terminals. Gamma imaging inspection systems use gamma rays to create high-resolution/high-penetration images of the contents of tankers, commercial trucks, sea and air containers and other cargo containers for contraband such as drugs, explosives, and weapons. Each system would be installed on a flatbed truck and would include a radiation source and shutter on a boom, a sodium iodide detector on a tower, and an operator station within the cab. All operations would be conducted on previously developed (paved and asphalt) surfaces with no construction proposed. DHS finds the proposed action consistent, to the maximum extent practicable, with the enforceable policies of the Virginia Coastal Resources Management Program (VCP) (also called the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program).

HOW TO COMMENT:

DEQ accepts comments from the public by e-mail, fax or postal mail. All comments must include the name, address and telephone number of the person commenting and be received by DEQ within the comment period. The public may review the project documents at DEQ's central office in Richmond.

CONTACT FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS, DOCUMENT REQUESTS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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